

Message Text

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14

ACTION LAB-04

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 IO-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 COME-00 EB-07

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FM AMEMBASSY ROME

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4365

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION GENEVA

USMISSION OECD PARIS

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E.O. 11652: DECONTROL AFTER ONE YEAR

TAGS: ELAB, PINT, IT

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE NEW AUTONOMOUS UNION CONFEDERATION

REF: ROME A-315

1. DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER WAY FOR THE POSSIBLE FORMATION
EARLY NEXT MONTH OF A NEW LABOR CONFEDERATION WHICH WOULD REGROUP
SOME OF THE MORE PROMINENT AUTONOMOUS UNIONS WHICH ARE PARTICULARLY
STRONG IN THE PUBLIC SECTOR.

2. FOLLOWING A MEETING ON NOVEMBER 20, CISAL, WHICH IS STRONGLY
REPRESENTED IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE AND AMONG PARASTATAL
AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES, SASMI, SNSN AND SNASE, WHICH
ARE PROMINENT AMONG SCHOOL TEACHERS AND SIDA, WHICH IS REPRESENTED
IN THE AUTOMOBILE INDUSTRY, ANNOUNCED DISCUSSIONS ARE UNDER
WAY FOR THE FORMATION IN EARLY DECEMBER OF A FOURTH LABOR
CONFEDERATION. THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF THE NEW CONFEDERATION

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WOULD BE FREEDOM AND DEMOCRACY AND INDEPENDENCE FROM PARTY

CONTROL ACCORDING TO THE WESTERN MODEL.

3. COMMENT: THIS LATEST ATTEMPT AT REGROUPING SOME OF THE MORE PROMINENT AUTONOMOUS UNIONS IS A REFLECTION BOTH OF THE PRESSURES THEY HAVE BEEN RECEIVING FROM THE FEDERATION CGIL-CISL-UIL (CCU) AND OF THE LIMITED SUCCESS SOME OF THEM HAVE HAD IN RECENT MONTHS IN ENCOUNTERS WITH THE CCU AND THE GOI. WHILE IT IS CONCEIVABLE THAT A SUCCESSFUL ATTEMPT AT AMALGAMATING THE MANY AUTONOMOUS UNIONS COULD RESULT IN A LABOR CONFEDERATION WITH UP TO ONE MILLION MEMBERS, THE GROUPS INVOLVED IN THIS LATEST ENDEAVOR HAVE A TOTAL MEMBERSHIP OF 300,000. GIVEN THE INHERENT TENDENCY TOWARD FACTIONALISM AND PERSONALITY CONFLICTS IN THE VARIOUS AUTONOMOUS UNIONS; AND THE ABSENCE OF POLITICAL SUPPORT, THE PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESS OF THE SUBJECT EXPERIMENT ARE NOT GOOD.

BEAUDRY

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